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FOR AMBASSADOR WHITE

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TAGS: SEDU, UN

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP, FEB.
17-23

REF: GA/10340

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH
PROF. ELSIE BOULDING, US EXPERT AT THE UPCOMING UN MEETING
ON STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS FOR THE NEW INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
WOMEN, AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE IRANIAN MISSION, AS APPROPRI-
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ATE.

2. IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT THE STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED UN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE WILL BE CONDITIONED BY THE NATURE OF ITS GOALS, PRIORITIES AND FINANCIAL BASE. THE US EXPERT SHOULD URGE A CLARIFICATION OF THESE MATTERS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH OTHER PHASES OF THE DISCUSSION, PARTICULARLY THE METHOD OF FUNDING AND EXPECTED ANNUAL FUNDING LEVELS. ALTHOUGH IRAN HAS OFFERED TO CONTRIBUTE MILLION DOLLARS ON OPENING OF THE INSTITUTE, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS LEVEL CAN BE MAINTAINED ON THE BASIS OF ANNUAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

AND US POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT INSTITUTES SUCH AS THIS BE ENTIRELY FUNDED THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED TO SERVE AS A BASIC INSTRUMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO GUIDE THE WORK OF THE INSTITUTE THROUGH THE DECADE FOR WOMEN, 1976-1985. FOR AN INDEX OF THE PRIORITY TASKS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE FIRST FIVE YEARS, PLANNERS SHOULD USE CHAPTER I, PARA 46 OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION IN DETAILING SPECIFIC AREAS OF ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THE PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED FROM ITEMS LISTED IN PARA 46 SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO ALLOW FOR NATIONAL VARIATIONS IN LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE US SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT INSTITUTE ENCOURAGE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING RATHER THAN ESTABLISH SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS AS IS TYPICAL IN MOST INSTITUTES AND UNIVERSITIES.

4. SINCE THE RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE WILL BE LIMITED AND WILL PROBABLY NOT SUPPORT A SERIES OF WOMEN-RELATED, BUT INDEPENDENT, RESEARCH PROGRAMS, THE TRAINING OF THE WOMEN FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD RECEIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY. ANY RESEARCH EFFORT UNDERTAKEN IN THE EARLY STAGES SHOULD BE GEARED CLOSELY TO AN EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE TRAINING EFFORTS. WHILE THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION CALLS FOR A SPECIAL PRIORITY FOR RURAL WOMEN IN DEVELOPING AREAS, SERIOUS ATTENTION

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SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE PROBLEMS OF URBAN LIVING FACED BY THE URBAN WOMEN OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. THERE IS A NEED TO DEVELOP MONITORING AND EVALUATING SYSTEMS TO MEASURE PROGRESS UNDER EACH OF THE GOALS LISTED IN PARA 46 AND AS A MEASURE OF OVERALL PROGRESS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARD EQUALITY FOR WOMEN. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EACH TRAINING PROGRAM BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN

EVALUATING STRUCTURE THAT CAN FEED INTO THE RESEARCH DATA BANKS THE RESULTS OF THEIR EVALUATION, THAT THEY BECOME AN IMPORTANT MECHANISM FOR IMPROVING THE TRAINING PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE AND FOR RAISING PENETRATING QUESTIONS CONTINUOUSLY ABOUT THE TRAINING EFFECTIVENESS.

6. ONE OF THE DANGERS OF SETTING UP NEW INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE PLANNING, IS THAT THEY OFTEN DUPLICATE ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE WORLD. A NUMBER OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES ALREADY EXIST WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM. THEIR PROGRAMS AND GOALS SHOULD BE REVIEWED CONTINUOUSLY BY INSTITUTE PROGRAMERS FOR GUIDANCE, TO AVOID DUPLICATION, AND AS AN ADDITIONAL

TRAINING AND RESEARCH RESOURCE FOR THE WOMEN. THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR) IS ONE EXAMPLE. OTHERS INCLUDE THE UN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (GENEVA) THE UN CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (JAPAN), AND THE UN SOCIAL DEFENSE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ROME), ETC. THE ILO, UNESCO AND WHO AND OTHERS ALSO CONDUCT RELEVANT PROGRAMS.

7. THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY MAY BECOME ANOTHER SUCH RESOURCE. USUN SHOULD SUGGEST THAT IN ESTABLISHING THE FRAMEWORK AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INSTITUTE, THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS RECOMMEND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UN UNIVERSITY TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF SOME MODE OF AFFILIATION OR INCORPORATION WITH UNU, WHICH IS JUST BEGINNING TO DEFINE ITS OWN PROGRAMS AND CRITERIA FOR ASSOCIATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT MIGHT BE NOTED THAT THE UNU COUNCIL HAS JUST APPROVED A PROPOSAL TO FOCUS INITIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING EFFORTS ON A PROGRAM DEVOTED TO POST HARVEST CONSERVATION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION IN RESPONSE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PRESSING WORLD PROBLEM OF HUNGER. THIS PROJECT MIGHT BE SUPPORTIVE OF TWO GOALS OF PARA 46, ITEMS (H) AND (J). SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR EQUALITY AND TO URGE UNU TO TAKE THE LEAD IN PROMOTING THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND THE FULL UTILIZATION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNU PROGRAMS.

8. MUCH OF THE WORK OF WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTERS IN THE US, IN SOME COUNTRIES OR EUROPE, AND IN THE ILO HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE NEEDS OF URBAN WOMEN OR THOSE FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION THE NEW INSTITUTE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN WHO HAVE NOT BEEN THE SUBJECT OF URBAN RESEARCH OR ARE NOT IN THE MAINSTREAM OF A SOCIETY. THE INSTITUTE SHOULD BECOME A LEADER IN GUIDING COUNTRIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ADVANCE

THE POSITION OF WOMEN, AND FOR BECOMING THE CENTER FOR INFORMATION RELATED TO WOMEN IN IMPROVING THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING RESOLUTION PASSED AT WORLD CONFERENCE GIVES EMPHASIS TO FUNDAMENTAL EDUCATION (INCLUDING FUNCTIONAL LITERACY); FREE EDUCATION AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION AS WELL AS EQUAL ACCESS; RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RESOURCES, ACCESSIBLE LIFE-LONG EDUCATION, CO-EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS, AND CURRICULA FREE OF SEX ROLE STEREOTYPING. IT CAN SERVE, ALONG WITH SOME OTHER RESOLUTIONS IN PROVIDING USEFUL DISCUSSION MATERIAL FOR DR. BOULDING. INGERSOLL

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